Meeting: 998, Houston, Texas, SS 7A, Special Session on Low Dimensional Topology

998-57-397 Cameron McA Gordon* (gordon@math.utexas.edu), University of Texas at Austin, Department of Mathematics, 1 University Station, C1200, Austin, TX 78712, and John E Luecke (luecke@math.utexas.edu), University of Texas at Austin, Department of Mathematics, 1 University Station, C1200, Austin, TX 78712. Doubly composite knots with unknotting number 1. Preliminary report.

We show that if K is a knot with unknotting number 1 and S is an essential toric 2-suborbifold of K, then, generically, any unknotting arc for K can be moved off S. The examples for which this is not possible are precisely the doubly composite knots with unknotting number 1 constructed by Eudave-Munoz, and certain other closely related knots. In particular, combining this with earlier results, and the recent work of Ozsvath and Szabo, the knots with unknotting number 1 and at most 10 crossings are completely determined. (Received March 02, 2004)